

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A1

NEW YORK TIMES
5 October 1985

F.B.I. Says Ex-C.I.A Agent Went To Austria in '84 to Betray Secrets

By WAYNE KING

Special to The New York Times

SANTA FE, N.M., Oct. 4 — Edward L. Howard, a former Central Intelligence Agency officer, traveled to Austria in 1984 and gave Soviet intelligence agents highly secret information about American intelligence sources and methods, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The specifics of espionage charges against Mr. Howard, who disappeared from his job as a state financial analyst here two weeks ago, were contained in an affidavit filed Wednesday in Federal District Court in Albuquerque, N.M., but sealed at the request of the Government until today.

Amended Complaint Filed

One intelligence source in Washington said tonight that the information provided by Mr. Howard had caused "enormous" damage to American intelligence-gathering in Moscow. He said that some Russian operatives for the C.I.A. were thought to have been executed by the Russians after their identities were revealed through the data Mr. Howard provided.

In the affidavit made available today, part of an amended Federal espionage complaint against Mr. Howard, the F.B.I. said that the origin of its information was "a confidential source with intimate knowledge of Soviet intelligence matters."

The affidavit did not name the source, but Administration officials have identified him as Vitaly Yurchenko, a senior member of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency, who defected to the United States in August.

Agents Spoke to Suspect

The F.B.I. documents provided some detailed insights into Mr. Howard's activities in recent years, saying that he "spent hours" near the Soviet Embassy in Washington in 1983 trying to decide whether to disclose classified information. They also show that he was placed on probation after a 1984 shooting incident that followed a fight with his wife and heavy drinking.

The documents suggest that Mr.

Howard might have fled because he knew the F.B.I. was building a case against him. According to them, agents talked to Mr. Howard on Sept. 20; he flew to Austin on Sept. 22.

The affidavit made available today said Mr. Howard was employed by the Central Intelligence Agency from January 1981 until June 1983, just before taking the job here, and that he "had access to highly classified information concerning United States intelligence matters."

"Recently," it said, "a confidential source with intimate knowledge of Soviet intelligence matters reported that senior officials of the Soviet Committee for State Security (K.G.B.) met in Austria in the fall of 1984 with a former C.I.A. employee. The former C.I.A. employee was paid money in exchange for classified information relating to United States intelligence sources and methods."

"Investigation has determined that Howard was in St. Anton, Austria, on Sept. 20, 1984," the affidavit said. The affidavit was signed by Martin R. Schwarz, an agent in the bureau's Albuquerque office.

Although that wording suggests that the Soviet informer did not specifically identify Mr. Howard as the "former C.I.A. employee," the affidavit states that "another confidential source" advised the F.B.I. as recently as Sept. 25, 1985, after Mr. Howard disappeared, that Mr. Howard told the source in July "that he had met in Europe with the Soviets, gave them information and had received cash." The affidavit did not give any indication of who the second source might be.

The second source also said that the Soviet Union had paid for Mr. Howard's trip to Europe and that Mr. Howard had "met his K.G.B. contact while in Europe."

The affidavit also said that when Mr. Howard left Santa Fe the weekend of Sept. 21-22 he left a note saying, "Well, I'm going, and maybe I'll give them what they think I already gave them."

The affidavit did not explain that statement.

Mr. Howard was an economics analyst for the legislative finance committee, involved chiefly in developing economic forecasts for use by the Legislature. His salary was \$33,012 a year.

Mr. Howard left both a resignation letter on his desk and a note to his wife, Mary, and his 2-year-old son, Lee, who are reported to be at their home or with relatives here.

The terse resignation statement said that "for personal reasons" he was resigning effective immediately and asked that any severance pay and other benefits be paid to his wife, Mary. It concluded, "I hope some day to be able to explain this to you and the rest of the staff."

Mr. Howard apparently flew to Austin, Tex., Sept. 22, where he was to attend a meeting the next day, but he failed to show up. He has not been seen since.

In another F.B.I. affidavit, also filed in the Federal court here, the Government said that the note Mr. Howard left for his wife and son instructed Mrs. Howard to "sell the house, Jeep, etc., and move in with one of our parents and be happy."

He also asked her to tell the son, "I think of him and you each day until I die."

The affidavit describing the note to

Mrs. Howard was attached to a bench warrant for Mr. Howard's arrest for violating terms of a probation agreement worked out after an incident in February 1984 in which Mr. Howard was involved in a shooting.

In that incident, Mr. Howard told the court the incident had come about as the result of heavy drinking in the wake of a fight with his wife. He told the court he had got into a dispute with three men on a downtown street and pulled a .44-caliber revolver, which he said discharged accidentally into the roof of an automobile owned by one of the three men.

Mr. Howard was placed on probation after pleading guilty to a charge of aggravated assault.

Those who worked with Mr. Howard here said that the shooting incident seemed totally out of character and that he was known as an efficient and dedicated worker with a penchant for patching up intergovernmental disputes.

The affidavit relating to Mr. Howard's purported spying made no mention of any activities related to his state job. Santa Fe is near both Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, both involved in highly secret defense work. Those who worked with Mr. Howard said he showed no more than a routine interest in the laboratories in connection with his job as an economic forecaster.

The affidavit also said that on Sept. 24, 1984, Mr. Howard met with two current employees of the Central Intelligence Agency and told them that in October of 1983 he went to Washington and "spent hours in the vicinity of the Soviet Embassy trying to decide whether to enter the embassy and disclose classified information."